

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-03 TRSE-00 SS-15 SP-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 IGA-01 NSC-05 OMB-01

ABF-01 SSO-00 /048 W

----- 007285

P 231123Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4919

S E C R E T AMMAN 4186

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT: FOUR MILLION DOLLAR SUPPLY OPNS CHARGE

REF: (A) STATE 145948 (B) SECDEF 8429 DTG 2621157Z MAR 74

1. APPRECIATE INFO ON CANCELLATION OF SUP OPNS CHARGE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED REHABILITATION CHARGES.

2. RE PARA 4 REFTTEL, (A) WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED OPTIONS WITH JAF IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE ANOTHER BLAST WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL BE UNNECESSARY. LIKELY JAF REACTION TO THREE OPTIONS WOULD BE "NONE OF THE ABOVE". JORDANIANS WORKED OUT PROVISION OF THIS EQUIPMENT WITH DEP SECDEF CLEMENTS IN MARCH 1974. THEIR UNDERSTANDING THROUGHOUT, AND OURS, HAS BEEN THAT EQUIPMENT WOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM FORCES IN OPERATIONAL CONDITION (ESC GREEN) AND THERE WAS NEVER REPEAT NEVER ANY MENTION OF A CHARGE FOR REHAB.

3. OUR REACTION FOLLOWS:

A. COST OF \$4.2 M FOR REHAB IS COINCIDENTAL WITH \$4M COST OF SUPPLY OPNS WHICH WAS COINCIDENTAL WITH \$4.2 M DROPPED FROM PROGRAM BY JAF AT OUR URGING FOR REDEYE.

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(WE RECOMMENDED ALL AD ITEMS GO FMS AS OPPOSED TO GA.)

B. REHAB COSTS OF \$4.2 M IS ALSO FIFTY PERCENT OF THE COST OF THE EQUIPMENT/SUPPOSEDLY IN OPNL CONDITION IN HANDS OF US TROOPS. THIS PERCENT SEEMS UNUSALLY HIGH.

C. NO MENTION WAS EVER MADE OF A FIFTY PERCENT REHAB COST IN ANY DISCUSSION WITH MANY TOP-LEVEL DOD OFFICIALS. IN MARCH 1974 ALL THE WRANGLING BETWEEN DOD AND JAF WAS PRECISELY OVER THE COSTS OF THESE ITEMS. THE PROGRAM WAS FINALIZED IN FURTHER HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS IN APRIL 75. IT WILL APPEAR TO JORDANIANS THAT THIS ADDITIONAL CHARGE WAS DELIBERATELY HIDDEN OR THAT WE CONSIDER \$4M A SLIGHT OVERSIGHT. WE WOULD EXPECT IT WILL HAVE A SERIOUS ADVERSE IMPACT ON THEIR TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THESE DOD OFFICIALS AS WELL AS ON OUR POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP.

D. PREVIOUS EQUIPMENT TAKEN FROM INVENTORY WAS DELIVERED IN ESC GREEN CONDITION WITH NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR REHAB. (EXAMPLE 40 M125A1 MORTAR CARRIERS RECEIVED IN SECOND QUARTER CY75.) THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD CERTAINLY BE SATISFACTORY TO JAF IN THAT IT IS WHAT THEY PRESENTLY EXPECT.

E. REF B, WHICH ORIGINALLY CONFIRMED MARCH 74 MEETINGS AND SET UP INITIAL FY-75 PROGRAM STATED THAT ITEMS WOULD BE DIVERTED FROM INVENTORIES AND CAN BE AVAILABLE FOR SHIPMENT AFTER FY-75 FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE. IT WOULD NOT BE REASONABLE TO READ INTO THAT STATEMENT "AND ALSO AFTER A \$4M REHAB PROGRAM."

4. IN SUMMARY WE WOULD EXPECT THAT JAF WILL EVALUATE THIS PROPOSAL (AS THEY DID WITH PCH&T CHARGE) AS A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT ON PART OF USG TO RECLAIM \$4M OF \$10M ADDITIONAL GA ALLOCATION. THEY WILL DO THE SAME WITH A \$4.2M FMS CASE FOR THE SAME PURPOSE. IT MAY NOT BE THE CASE BUT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR JORDANIANS TO BE CONVINCED THAT IT IS ANYTHING BUT ANOTHER EFFORT AT FLIM-FLAM.

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5. PLEASE ADVISE.
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